

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-09 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 DPW-01

EUR-25 IO-12 RSR-01 /113 W
----- 108184

R 210635 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8941

USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4612

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP (48 HOURS ENDING AM MAR 20)

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM SENT MAR 20 TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 218

E. O. 11652 GDS - 1979

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 2 DAILY SIT REP (48 HOURS ENDING A. M. MAR 20)

1. SUMMARY: PHU YEN SECTOR OPERATION TO OPEN ROUTE 7- B NEARING
SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. CHIEF AN QUANG MONK IN DARLAC IMPRESSED
BY THIEU' S ATTENDANCE AT PATRIARCH' S FUNERAL BUT REMAINS CRITICAL
OF HIS POLITICAL ORGANIZING.

2. MILITARY SITUATION: WITH NEAR- CONCLUSION MAR 19 OF PHU YEN
SECTOR OPERATION TO OPEN ROUTE 7- B FROM QL-1 TO PHU BON BORDER,
LEVEL OF CONTACT IN MR 2 HAS DROPPED. MOST SIGNIFICANT ENEMY
ACTION OF ENTIRE 48- HOUR PERIOD WAS VC ATTACK ON RF BATTALION IN
TUY AN DISTRICT, PHU YEN, ON MAR 18; ATTACK WAS REPULSED WITH
REPORTED RF LOSS OF ONE WIA AND VC LOSSES OF ELEVEN KIA AND
ASSORTED ORDNANCE CIA. REMAINDER OF REPORTED INCIDENTS
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SCALE ENEMY PROBES AND INDIRECT FIRE ATTACKS ON FRIENDLY POSITIONS IN NORTHERN BINH DINH AND IN HAM THUAN DISTRICT, BINH THUAN.

3. ICCS: PHU BON PC HOSTED RESIDENT ICCS TEAM AND US ELEMENT OF JMT AT ABORIGINE DINNER AND CEREMONY AT SECTOR HQ NIGHT OF MAR 18. 9,3 :-,\$3) 9, :#39 439 53-. 495-53\$ -,\$ 2- 430)-:3\$ -.3 \$-6.

4. POINT- OF- ENTRY (POE) TEAM IN CAM RANH, STILL LACKING POLDEL, HAS BEEN HOSPITABLY RECEIVED BY RANKING ARVN OFFICER IN AREA (CO, 5 TH AREA LOGISTICS COMMAND) AND AFFORDED COMPLETE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT. SENIOR CANDEL HAS TOLD ARRO REP THAT TEAM HAS YET TO RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING ITS DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. EVEN THOUGH POE TEAM THUS STILL GROPING IN THE DARK, CAM RANH CITIZENRY IS PREPARING LIST OF COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS FOR PRESENTATION TO ICCS. (ANY INVESTIGATION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE DONE BY SUB- REGIONAL TEAM AT NINH HOA AND NOT BE CAM RANH TEAM ITSELF.)

5. QUI NHON ICCS TEAM, BY CONTRAST, WAS REFUSED ADMISSION TO PORT AREA THERE CIRCA MAR 16. REFUSAL REPORTEDLY LED TO HARD FEELINGS AND AND INITIAL THREAT BY INDODEL CHIEF TO PULL TEAM OUT OF QUI NHON ALTOGETHER. TEAM HAD WANTED TO EXAMINE SHIPMENT OF MUNITIONS WHICH THEY UNDERSTOOD WAS BEING OFFLOADED AT QUI NHON. ALTHOUGH THIS REQUEST WAS REFUSED, TEAM WAS EVENTUALLY ALLOWED TO EXAMINE SHIPPING DOCUMENTS. SHIPMENT TURNED OUT TO BE COASTWISE, ORIGINATING IN VUNG TAU (WHICH IS NOT GVN POE FOR MUNITIONS EITHER), BUT MUNITIONS HAD APPARENTLY BEEN ENTERED INTO SVN BEFORE JAN 28.

6. DWV AFFAIRS: FROM MAR 9 TO DATE APPROX 5,000 DWV HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED BY ROAD FROM REFUGEE CAMPS IN PLEIKU TO THEIR HOME PROVINCE OF KONTUM. THIS MOVEMENT IS CONTINUING. MORE THAN 3,000 OF THESE DWV HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR NATIVE VILLAGES, WHILE REMAINDER ARE STAYING IN MARYLOU CAMP NEAR KONTUM CITY. BACK IN PLEIKU, HOWEVER, SOME 350 ETHNIC VIETNAMESE HEADS OF FAMILY REPRESENTING APPROX 2,000 PEOPLE LAST WEEK PETITIONED PRES. THIEU TO BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN THERE. THEY COMPLAINED THAT THERE IS NO ACCESSIBLE FARM LAND IN KONTUM. ALMOST ALL OF PETITIONERS ARE NATIVES OF BINH DINH WHO WERE INITIALLY RESETTLED IN KONTUM TWO YEARS AGO AND FLED TO PLEIKU IN 1972.

7. SOME OF DWV NOW BACK IN KONTUM HAVE SETTLED IN POLEI KRONG AREA AND HAVE ALREADY JOINED LOCAL PF IN FRIENDLY EXCHANGES WITH
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COMMUNIST TROOPS ON OPPOSITE BANK OF POKO RIVER (SAIGON 4395, SIT REP). NEITHER SIDE IS DISPLAYING WEAPONS OR PROPAGANDIZING THE OTHER. ALL PARTIES INVOLVED ARE BELIEVED TO BE MONAGNARDS.

8. POLITICAL ACTIVITY: KHANH HOA PROVINCE COUNCIL MEMBERS AND VARIOUS POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING REVOLUTIONARY DAI VIET BUT NOT DEMOCRACY PARTY) SENT PETITION TO THIEU AND OTHER HIGH GVN OFFICIALS ASKING COMPLETE AMNESTY FOR NON- COMMUNIST POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD BY GVN. PETITION, WHICH IS IN FORM OF LETTER, BEARS DATE OF FEB 27. WE DO NOT KNOW WHO INSPIRED IT, ALTHOUGH PROV COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IS A STRONG INDICATION THAT PETITION IS AT LEAST TOLERABLE TO GVN. NOR DO WE KNOW SAIGON RESPONSE, IF ANY.

9. DEMOCRACY PARTY HAS NOW ESTABLISHED ITSELF AT SUB- PROVINCIAL LEVEL IN PLEIKU CITY AND ALL THREE DISTRICTS OF PLEIKU PROVINCE.

10. ATTITUDES: CHIEF AN QUANG MONK IN BAN ME THUOT TOLD POLOFF THERE THAT HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED AND GLADDENED BY THIEU' S ATTENDANCE AT MAR 9 CEREMONY IN HUE FOR DECEASED PATRIARCH THECH TINH KHiet. MONK REMAINS CRITICAL, HOWEVER, OF THIEU' S ORGANIZING OF DP AND POPULAR FRONT, WHICH HE SEES AS PRECURSORS OF DICTATORSHIP.
ENGLE
UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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